Dear Healthcare Professional,

At MPR we strive to bring you important drug information in a concise and timely fashion. In keeping with this goal, we are pleased to bring you this PRESCRIBING ALERT about ProAir® HFA (albuterol sulfate) Inhalation Aerosol, a product of Teva Respiratory, LLC. ProAir HFA now has a built-in dose counter and offers a complete package of helpful features for your patients. The new built-in dose counter helps your patients always know exactly how many puffs are left in the canister and when it is time to refill their prescription.1

This PRESCRIBING ALERT highlights the helpful features, greater availability, and guideline recommendations of the ProAir HFA red inhaler, making it the product to go to for your patients’ needs.

Indications

ProAir HFA (albuterol sulfate) Inhalation Aerosol is indicated in patients 4 years of age and older for the treatment or prevention of bronchospasm with reversible obstructive airway disease and for the prevention of exercise-induced bronchospasm.

Important Safety Information

• Inhaled albuterol sulfate can produce paradoxical bronchospasm that may be life-threatening. It should be recognized that paradoxical bronchospasm, when associated with inhaled formulations, frequently occurs with the first use of a new canister
• Fatalities have been reported in association with excessive use of inhaled sympathomimetic drugs in patients with asthma
• ProAir HFA, as with all sympathomimetic amines, should be used with caution in patients with cardiovascular disorders (especially coronary insufficiency, cardiac arrhythmias, and hypertension), convulsive disorders, hyperthyroidism, and diabetes
• Potential drug interactions can occur with beta-blockers, diuretics, digoxin, or monoamine oxidase inhibitors, and tricyclic antidepressants
• Do not exceed the recommended dose
• Adverse events, which occurred at an incidence rate of at least 3% with ProAir HFA, include headache, tachycardia, pain, dizziness, pharyngitis, and rhinitis

Please see the full Prescribing Information for ProAir HFA.

Sincerely,

Madonna Krawczyk, PharmD
Director of Clinical Communications
MPR Custom Programs

REFERENCE

1. ProAir HFA [prescribing information]. Horsham, PA: Teva Respiratory, LLC; May 2012.
ProAir® HFA
(albuterol sulfate) Inhalation Aerosol

Company: Teva Respiratory
Pharmacologic class: β₂-agonist.
Active Ingredients: Albuterol sulfate 108 mcg/inhalation metered-dose aerosol.
Indications: For the treatment or prevention of bronchospasm with reversible obstructive airway disease and for the prevention of exercise-induced bronchospasm, in patients 4 years of age and older.
Dosing: <4yrs: not recommended. ≥4yrs: 2 inhalations every 4–6 hrs as needed; 1 inhalation every 4 hrs may suffice. Exercise-induced bronchospasm: 2 inhalations 15–30 minutes before exercise.
Warnings & Precautions: Discontinue if paradoxical bronchospasm or cardiovascular effects occur. Need for more doses may be a sign of deterioration of asthma; reevaluate therapy. Consider adding anti-inflammatory agents (eg, corticosteroids) to therapeutic regimen. Caution in patients with cardiovascular disease (eg, coronary insufficiency, arrhythmias, hypertension). Avoid excessive use. Caution in patients sensitive to sympathomimetic drugs; discontinue immediately if immediate hypersensitivity occurs. Monitor for hypokalemia and changes in blood glucose.
Interactions: Oral sympathomimetics: not recommended. Antagonized by β-blockers. Caution with other drugs that may lower serum potassium (eg, diuretics). Monitor digoxin. Avoid MAOIs, tricyclics within 14 days (increased cardiovascular effects).
Adverse reactions: Headache, tachycardia, pain, dizziness, pharyngitis, and rhinitis.
How Supplied: Inhalation aerosol—8.5 g

ProAir HFA now has a built-in dose counter

- Patients will always know
  - Exactly how many puffs are left in the canister
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Selected Safety Information
- Do not exceed the recommended dose

Please see full Prescribing Information and the last page for additional Important Safety Information.
ProAir® HFA (albuterol sulfate) may give patients more time to inhale each puff

Reduce wasted medication by providing more time to use all 200 puffs

Offers a dose that is ready when your patients need it

- ProAir HFA is designed to deliver flexibility and portability
- ProAir HFA inhalers can be carried and stored in any position without affecting dose consistency.1,5,6,*

*Just like all albuterol HFA inhalers, ProAir HFA should always be actuated, primed, and used in an upright position, and must be stored at room temperature (between 59°F and 77°F).1

Selected Safety Information
- Potential drug interactions can occur with beta-blockers, diuretics, digoxin, or monoamine oxidase inhibitors, and tricyclic antidepressants

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May help insured patients pay less

- ProAir® HFA (albuterol sulfate) has the widest, most preferred formulary coverage.
- Covers 95% of insured patient lives, with preferred formulary coverage by more than 80% of covered lives. As a result, more insured patients may pay less for their medication.

**PERCENTAGE OF PREFERRED FORMULARY COVERAGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication</th>
<th>% Covered</th>
<th>% Preferred</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ProAir HFA</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proventil® HFA</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventolin® HFA</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xopenex HFA®</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ProAir HFA has preferred formulary coverage by more than 80% of covered lives. As a result, more insured patients may pay less for their medication.

**Guidelines for short-acting β2 agonist use**

- Short-acting β2 agonists (SABAs) are indicated for the treatment or prevention of bronchospasm with reversible obstructive pulmonary disease.
  - Reversible obstructive pulmonary disease includes asthma, exercise-induced bronchospasm (EIB), and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder.
  - SABAs bind to β2 adrenergic receptors to relax smooth muscle after adenylate cyclase activation and increase cyclic AMP to antagonize further bronchoconstriction.
- Currently, SABAs are the most effective type of medication for relieving acute bronchospasm.
  - The guidelines of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) recommends SABAs as the preferred treatment of acute asthma symptoms and exacerbations (Evidence Level A).
  - In addition, the NHLBI guidelines recommend the use of SABAs prior to exercise for the prevention of EIB (Evidence Level A).

The NHLBI guidelines recommend that patients with asthma and EIB should have a SABA inhaler available at all times.

**Selected Safety Information**

- Adverse events, which occurred at an incidence rate of at least 3% with ProAir HFA, include headache, tachycardia, pain, dizziness, pharyngitis, and rhinitis.

*Please see full Prescribing Information and the last page for additional Important Safety Information.*

(continued on next page)
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REFERENCES
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